How is the course structured?
A full A'level in psychology lasts for two years, whereas the AS lasts for one. There are two modular exams in each year, both taken in May. There is no coursework.

The AS course (year 12)
At AS, candidates develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the core areas of psychology. Through a range of topics, chosen for their accessibility and popularity:

Unit 1:
In this module, we look at three areas of psychology: Cognitive, Attachment and Research Methods.

The exam sat in May is worth 50% of the AS (25% of an A2)

Unit 2:
In this module, we look at three areas of psychology: Stress, Abnormality and Social Influence

The exam sat in May is worth 50% of the AS (25% of an A2)

The A2 course (year 13):
At A2, the specification offers a range of topic-based options which bring together explanations from different psychological approaches and engage students in issues and debates in psychology. Students will be studying, in depth, aggression, eating behavior and biological rhythms/sleep.

Unit 3 – Topics in Psychology
Students will be studying, in depth, aggression, eating behaviour and biological rhythms/sleep. The students will be required to write three essays in 90 minutes.

The exam sat in June is worth 25% of the A2.

Unit 4 - Psychopathology, Psychology in Action and Research Methods
Areas include phobic disorders, anomalous psychology (paranormal) and research methods (this is compulsory) Students have two hours to answer short essay style questions.

The exam sat in June is worth 25% of the A2.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES
AO1 Knowledge and understanding of Psychology
AO2 Analysis and evaluation of knowledge
AO3 How science works in psychology

Psychology AS/A2
Colonel Frank Seely School
Mrs Cramp

This pamphlet is designed to provide you with information concerning the Psychology AS/A2 course. It covers the following:
1. Psychology websites for you to explore
2. Psychologists you need to know about
3. Tasks for you to complete
4. Textbook
5. Course content
6. Assessment objectives AO1, AO2 and AO3
Online tasks for you to do

**TASK 1**
Discover what Psychology is at:
www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind

**TEXTBOOK**
Psychology AS AQA(A) The Complete Companion by Cardwell and Flanagan

**TASK 2**
Visit www.psychology4a.com and:
- Listen to Phineas Gage’s story.
- Find out why stress is good for you.
- Investigate the protein link to autism.
- Read about Catherine Zeta Jones and bipolar

**TASK 3**
We commence the AS syllabus with memory. Go to www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/mind/surveys/memory and work through the digit span experiment and working memory tests. Also look at what sex your brain is and take the Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) test.

You will need to purchase a copy of this textbook (above left). The mini companion (above right) is really useful for revision

**What sort of things will you learn about?**

**Examples of AS/A2 content**

**Loftus and Palmer (1974)**
They discovered that when eyewitnesses to a car crash were asked “How fast were the cars going when they smashed each other?” they gave a higher speed estimate than people who were asked the question “How fast were the cars going when they contacted each other?” This shows that just the way a question is worded can alter our memory.

**Pavlov (1904)**
He trained a dog to salivate by ringing a bell every time he gave him food. Eventually, the sound of the bell was enough to make the dog salivate without the food being present. He called this Classical Conditioning and it has been able to explain a lot about animal (and human) behaviour.

**Bandura et al (1961)**
Showed children a video of an adult behaving aggressively towards an inflatable toy doll. When the children were allowed to play with the doll, they likewise behaved aggressively. He used these results to develop a theory that can explain how aggression can be learned through imitation. He called this the Social Learning Theory of Aggression.